

Amend the following numbered paragraphs of the Specification as filed:

[0016] FIG. 1a illustrates a perspective view 100 of an exemplary embodiment of the sealing tape 110 in accordance with the principles of the invention. In this embodiment, a slicing means 120 **in the form of an elongated filament** is integrally attached to the **web portion of the material comprising** packaging tape 110. In this illustrative embodiment, slicing means 120 is placed substantially **along** ~~in~~ the center of **the** tape **web** with regard to its longitudinal axis. The **structure of** slicing means 120 may for example be selected as a cord, string, rope, twine, or **a similar form of elongated** filament that may be manufactured from materials such as fabric or a metal.

[0017] Slicing means 120, ~~thus,~~ **namely the elongated filament, is structured and placed so that** when **the filament is** pulled **from the web, the filament** separates packaging tape 110 ~~about the cord~~ **into two lateral web strips, thereby** enabling the ~~sealed a~~ package **sealed along a line with the tape** to be opened without the use of an extrinsic cutting tool. In one aspect, slicing means 120 is selected based on the composition of the tape such that the slicing means 120 **has a** ~~contains~~ sufficient tensile strength, **greater than the tearing strength of the tape web,** to cut or slice through the material of tape 110 without itself breaking. For example, slicing means 120 may be a fabric, a nylon, an aluminum etc. filament.

[0018] FIG. 1b illustrates a cross-sectional view through section A-A, which is substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the packing tape 110 shown in FIG. 1a. As shown packing tape 110 is shown to include top surface 125 and a bottom surface 130 **that overlies the filament slicing means 120.** Conventionally, the bottom surface may include an adhesive that allows tape 110 to remain in contact with the package surface. As would be recognized by those skilled in the art, the adhesive on

surface 130 may be a dry adhesive that is activated upon contact or a wet adhesive that requires moisture to be activated.

[0019] Also shown is integrated slicing means 120 substantially centered with regard to the longitudinal edges of tape 110. Although slicing means 120 is shown disposed against the adhesive underside of the web, external to the web material 110, one skilled in the art would recognize that slicing means 120 may be ~~internally positioned~~ internal in the web, i.e., between top surface 125 and bottom surface 130.

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